THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUME; AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHGX PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) the following steps have been taken for healthy growth of the Centra. Warehousing Corporation (CWC):—

(i) The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Act, 2001 has bee notified on 29.08.2001 and has come into force w.e.f. 1.11.200 The amendments would enable CWC to set up warehouses abroa and also to enter into joint ventures.

(ii) The status of CWC has been upgraded from a Schedule 'C compan; to a Schedule 'B' company w.e.f. 29.10.2001.

(iii) CWC will be one of the major players in bulk silo storag infrastructure.

(iv) Seven new Container Freight Stations (CFSs) have been opene by CWC during 2001-2002 so far.

(v) No fresh recruitment is being undertaken by CWC with a view I. controlling the establishment cost.

(vi) CWC is creating additional storage capacity of approximate 5.83 lakh MTs for storing foodgrains under the guarantee utilisation scheme of FCI.

Procurement of foodgrains through FCI

1249. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUME^ AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently stated that they will not procure foodgrains from the farmers through FCI for the PDS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMEF AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. No concrete proposal in this regard is unde consideration.

(b) Does not arise.